

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 11, 2007, the Examiner objected to the Drawings; objected to claims 1-16; rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, and 15 as anticipated by Landry (US 5217067); and indicated that claims 2-4, 7, 9, 11-13 and 16 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

Objection to the Drawings

A New Drawing page containing a new Figure 8 is included herewith. The new figure schematically illustrates the subject matter in question. The new figure is not new matter, as the subject matter was disclosed in the specification as-filed, including the Summary and original claim 3.

Objection to claims 1-16

Applicants respectfully submit that the figures are not misleading. Because fluid flow in the production tubing is toward the surface, *i.e.* upward as drawn. Thus “downstream” in the context of the claims is toward the top of the page.

Rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, and 15 as anticipated by Landry

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2, which was indicated to be allowable. Likewise, claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 9, which was indicated to be allowable, and claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 11, which was indicated to be allowable. Claims 3 and 12 have been canceled as redundant and the dependency of some claims has been amended to ensure consistency.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and allowance of the amended claims of this application. Should the Examiner find any impediment

to the allowance of this case that could be corrected by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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